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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MARTIN DUBS ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/484,421 Group Art Unit:

Filed: JANUARY 18, 2000 Examiner:

Title: SPUTTER CHAMBER AS WELL AS VACUUM TRANSPORT CHAMBER
AND VACUUM HANDLING APPARATUS WITH SUCH CHAMBERS

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

English abstracts of European, Japanese, and German Patent documents are submitted herewith.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding foreign Search Report citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

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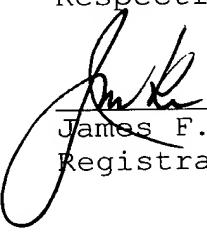
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The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed without a Certification under 37 CFR §1.97(e) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance (whichever is earlier), and therefore a check for the fee of \$180.00 under 37 CFR §1.17(p) is attached. Please charge any necessary fee or credit any overpayment in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 05-1323.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

January 28, 2002


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